

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /091 W

-----150918Z 074118 /23

R 140740Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5157

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 4175

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, SP, LI

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO LIBERIA ON CANARY ISLANDS IN THE OAU

REF: STATE 131165 (NOTAL), MADRID 4294 (NOTAL)

1. PER REFTELS, ON JUNE 14 EMBASSY OFFICER RAISED THE CANARY ISLAND QUESTION WITH THE LIBERIAN DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS, MARJON KAMARA. KAMARA INDICATED THAT THE SPANISH CHARGE HERE HAD ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS RAISED THIS ISSUE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. SHE ALSO RECALLED THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR GARCIA-AGULLO, RESIDENT IN ACCRA, HAD RAISED THE ISSUE IN MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT LAST MONTH.

2. ACCORDING TO KAMARA, THE LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA AND THE OAU NATHANIEL EASTMAM, HAS NEITHER RECEIVED NOR REQUESTED INSTRUCTION S

ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE OAU AGENDA OF THE QUESTION OF THE CANARY ISLANDS. KAMARA STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY WELL INFORMED AS TO THE ACTUAL SENTIMENTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE CANARY ISLANDS REGARDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPARATION FROM SPAIN. SHE

FELT THAT A PLEBISCITE ON THE MATTER WOULD CLARIFY THE SITUATION.

SHE NOTED THAT GEOGRAPHICALLY THE CANARIES ARE PART OF AFRICA

AND THAT THE POPULATION SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION.

SHE DREW UPON PARALLELS WITH PUERTO RICO AND STRESSED THAT LIBERIA

WAS WILLING TO PLAY A ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED CIRCLES ON PUERTO

RICO SINCE THE POPULATION OF PUERTO RICO HAD REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED

ITS PREFERENCE FOR CONTINUATION OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. IF ALGERIA INITIATED DISCUSSION ON THE CANARY ISLANDS, KAMARA DID NOT EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DEBATE ON THE QUESTION. SHE INDICATED THAT THE SPANISH HAD REQUESTED LIBERIA TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE OAU IN DEFENDING THE SPANISH POSITION. LIBERIA COULD NOT, HOWEVER, SUPPORT THE SPANISH POSITION AND WOULD INSTEAD REMAIN TRUE TO ITS POLICY OF SUPPORTING SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLES.

4. THE EMBASSY DELAYED RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE CANARY ISLANDS UNTIL DISCUSSING THE MATTER ON JUNE 13 WITH SPANISH CHARGE MANUEL CABRERA. CABRERA IN A MEETING WITH THE ACTING DCM WAS QUITE SURPRISED THAT WE HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BECAUSE HE AND HIS AMBASSADOR IN ACCRA HAD SO THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH THE LIBERIANS. HE, HOWEVER, INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION TO OUR RAISING THE QUESTION AND COMMENTED THAT AN EXPRESSION OF U.S. INTEREST ON THE CANARY ISLANDS QUESTION COULD ONLY IMPROVE THE SPANISH POSITION HERE.

5. FYI: THE SPANISH CHARGE IN MONROVIA IS ACCORDED FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN OFFICIAL LIBERIAN AND DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS. END FYI.  
SADLER

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## Message Attributes

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